

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized accounting system adapted to be used  
5 by at least first and second groups of users, comprising:
  - a host accounting system for allowing users to store transaction data representing financial transactions;
  - an overlay system for allowing users in the second group of users to store overlay adjustment data representing  
10 adjusting journal entries related to the financial transactions;
  - a host report system for allowing users to generate host reports based on the transaction entries; and
  - an overlay report system for allowing users in the second group of users to generate overlay reports based on the  
15 transaction entries and the overlay journal entries.
2. A system as recited in claim 1, in which:
  - the host accounting system comprises a host general ledger  
20 database for storing host general ledger data representing the transaction data; and
  - the overlay report system creates an overlay general ledger database containing overlay general ledger data based on the host general ledger database.  
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3. A system as recited in claim 2, further comprising a transfer interface module for converting the host general ledger data into the overlay general ledger data.
- 30 4. A system as recited in claim 1, in which the overlay system comprises an overlay journal for storing the overlay adjustment data as overlay journal data.

5. A system as recited in claim 1, in which:  
the host accounting system comprises a general ledger  
database for storing general ledger data representing the  
transaction data and the overlay adjustment data; and  
5 the overlay report system creates the overlay reports based on  
the general ledger data.

6. A system as recited in claim 5, further comprising an  
overlay filter for generating filtered general ledger data based on the  
10 general ledger data, where the host report system creates the host  
reports based on the filtered general ledger data.

7. A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising an  
access limiting system for limiting access to the overlay system by the  
15 first group of users.

8. A method of automating an accounting system accessed  
by first and second groups of users comprising the steps of:  
allowing users in the first and second groups of users to store  
20 transaction entries representing financial transactions;  
allowing users in the second group of users to store overlay  
journal entries representing adjusting journal entries  
related to the transaction entries;  
allowing the users in the first and second groups of users to  
25 generate at least one host report based on the  
transaction entries; and  
allowing the users in the second group of users to generate at  
least one overlay report based on the transaction entries  
and the overlay journal entries.

30 9. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the  
steps of :  
storing host general ledger data representing the transaction

data in the host general ledger database; and  
creating an overlay general ledger database containing overlay  
general ledger data based on the host general ledger  
database.

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10. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the  
step of converting the host general ledger data into the overlay general  
ledger data.

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11. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the  
step of storing the overlay adjustment data in an overlay journal as  
overlay journal data.

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12. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the  
steps of:  
storing general ledger data representing the transaction data  
and the overlay adjustment data; and  
creating the overlay reports based on the general ledger data.

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13. A system as recited in claim 12, further comprising the  
steps of:  
filtering the general ledger data to obtain filtered general ledger  
data; and  
creating the host reports based on the filtered general ledger  
data.

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14. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the  
step of limiting access to the overlay system by the first group of users.

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